

Dear Committee Co-chairs Needleman and Arconti, dear Co-vice chairs Fonfara and Allie-Brennan,

I am writing in support for **HB 5002**, An Act Concerning the Development of a Green New Deal.

Following through on CT's program for renewables and carbon emission reduction is more urgent than ever, and at this time the best strategy is to revitalize effective strategies CT had already started, and add more strategies under the umbrella of a Green New Deal:

- Incentivize and support transition to renewables as quickly and as just as possible, and
- Creating "green collar jobs" along the way, by investing in infrastructure, transportation and electric grid.

The Green New Deal for CT should include at least:

- Strict energy efficiency standards for buildings to reduce emissions and save costs;
- A "Green Jobs Ladder" or similar workforce development plan with an emphasis on training low-income and working-class residents;
- Creating a Residential Property Assessed Clean Energy (R-PACE) program to help low-income households finance energy efficient improvements;
- Protecting energy efficiency funds from diversion;
- Increasing the urgency of Connecticut's Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS);
- An increased community solar allowance;
- Equitable net-metering to incentivize Connecticut residents and businesses to install solar panels;
- Electrified mass transit;
- Bans on new natural gas, coal, oil or other fossil fuel or oil infrastructure development; and divestment from any such project;
- Emphasis on the role of mini-grids and smart grids in an increasingly decentralized power distribution structure;
- Education on sustainable farming practices, like crop rotation and soil management;
- Installation of a Green New Deal Advisory Committee; and so on.

The town where I live has traditionally been rather resistant to renewables. While surrounding communities have their larger scale solar panels already installed and running, we just slowly got the permitting and contracting going. But even our little town is pulling itself on the bandwagon - because it's obviously high time to do so. Wallingford has suffered greatly from the microburst last May; even if it's hard to relate single storms to climate change, the concept of "devastating storms" and the concern about increasing frequency and severity of such events, the realization that the "norm" of our climate is breaking apart, has clearly started to occupy our residents' minds. As a parent, I am lucky to volunteer for the school district's efforts to increase energy efficiency - even if the terms climate change or environment are still not the main drivers, efficiency and potentially saving money is clearly a declared goal. So now, we need help from

the state, as from federal side is not much help to be expected. We need CT to step up, clarify statewide updated energy goals, standards and strategies, restore and increase funding for those measures, and create new green opportunities for workers, businesses and communities alike.

Please support and move forward the Green New Deal,
HB 5002.

Thank you,

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